

II. REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the subject application, as amended, and in light of the remarks that follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-59 and 61-71 were pending in the present application. On October 11, 2005 Applicants received an Office Action rejecting all claims under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the Office Action, Examiner stated that the “claims recite an undue multiplicity of claims by virtue of the unreasonable number of claims presented would tend to obfuscate, confuse, and becloud the claimed invention.” Examiner, therefore requested that the number of claims be reduced to 20, no more than 6 of which can be independent.

The undersigned contacted the Examiner on January 4, 2005 in order to discuss this rejection. Examiner expressed a desire to examine no more than 20 claims, due to various time constraints and concerns. The undersigned questioned if particular claims could be selected for examination, analogous to the Proposed Rule Changes from the Patent Office’s Customer Partnership Meeting. Since no such procedure is yet in place for such a selection, Examiner advised Applicant to cancel dependent claims to reduce the number of claims to 20, and after the application has been allowed, amend to reinstate the canceled claims.

While Applicants are understanding of Examiner’s position, Applicants are apprehensive to cancel claims with only an assurance of adding such canceled claims after allowance. Additionally, Applicants note that all examination for all pending claims has been paid for. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit the following amendment and response, which cancels thirty-six (36) claims of the previously-pending seventy (70) claims, and leaves only thirty-four (34) claims, three (3) of which are independent, for examination.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending thirty-four (34) claims do not obfuscate, confuse, or becloud the claimed invention in any way. Applicants submit that the pending thirty-four (34) claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 25, 27-34, 36, 37, 39, 42-44, 50, 51, 53, 54, 56, 61, and 68-71 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 5-7, 9-15, 18, 21, 23, 24, 26, 35, 38, 40, 41, 45-49, 52, 55, 57-60, 62-66 are currently cancelled by present amendment. The present cancellation is made with full preservation of Applicant's right to have this rejection on the grounds of undue multiplicity reviewed by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, as noted in M.P.E.P. 2173.05(n). Claims 3, 4, 8, 22, 25, 39, 43, 44, 56, and 61 are amended to include subject matter from the presently canceled claims. Claims 29, 70, and 71 are amended to use proper claim terminology and to depend on the proper claim.

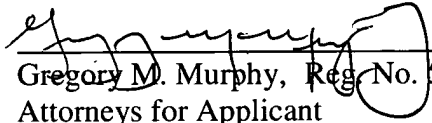
III. CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 25, 27-34, 36, 37, 39, 42-44, 50, 51, 53, 54, 56, 61, and 68-71 are in condition for allowance. The Applicants request that the present Amendment be entered.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative. Authorization is hereby granted to charge or credit the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206 for any fees or overpayments related to the entry of this Amendment, including any extension of time fees and new claims fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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